

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 4, 9 and 12 have been amended. Claim 14 has been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-13, and 15-16 are pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 7-10, 12-13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bellenger (5,949,786). Claim 1 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wicklund. Claim 1 has been amended in a manner to obviate the rejections. In particular, claim 1, as amended, recites an integrated network switch with the method comprising: receiving a data packet on one of a plurality of network switch ports of the integrated network switch; and generating a packet signature, by the one network switch port by hashing selected portions of the received data packet based on prescribed hash action values of a user-programmable template.

Bellenger does not disclose generating a packet signature by a network switch port of an integrated network switch for a data packet received at the network switch port. Bellenger merely discloses an integrated network switch 100 with a centralized hash generator 105.

Wicklund also teaches a centralized hash coding 204.

Since Bellenger and Wicklund do not disclose generating a packet signature by a network switch port, the rejection of claim 1 and the claims that depend there from should be withdrawn.

With regard to independent claim 12, the Examiner noted that dependent claim 14 contains allowable subject matter. In that regard, claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 14. Thus, claim 12 and the claims that depend there from are considered to be in condition for allowance.

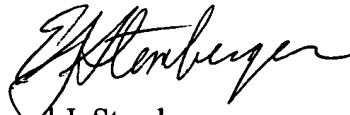
The Examiner indicated that claims 2-6 and 15 also contain allowable subject matter. However, these claims have not been placed in independent format since claims 1 and 12, as amended, are considered to be allowable over the prior art of record.

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In view of the above, it is believed this application is and condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any missing or insufficient fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a), to Deposit Account No. 50-0687, under Order No. 95-321, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Stemberger', written in a cursive style.

Edward J. Stemberger  
Registration No. 36,017  
(202) 261-1014

Customer No. 20736

**Date: October 20, 2004**